

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: UNEP/ACQBQ DIFFERENCES

REF: NAIROBI 4065

SUMMARY: VIEWS OF FUND DIRECTOR BERTHOUD AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER FORAN ON UNEP/ACABQ DIFFERENCES GIVEN BELOW AS BACKGROUND TO BERTHOUD'S JUNE 3 CONSULTATIONS IN DEPT. END SUMMARY

1. EMBOFF HAS NOW TALKED TO FUND DIRECTOR BERTHOUD AND EXECUTIVE OFFICER FORAN ABOUT UNEP'S UNRESOLVED DIFFERENCES WITH ACABQ. BOTH ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED BY PROBLEM AND THIS IN FACT ONE OF SPECIAL SUBJECTS OF

BERTHOUD'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS AT UN. HE SHOULD BE ABLE TO BRIEF DEPT. ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS WHEN HE VISITS WASHINGTON JUNE 3, BUT IN MEANTIME FOLLOWING BACKGROUND MAY BE OF INTEREST.

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2. BERTHOUD, DURING MAY 17 CONVERSATION, SPOKE OF UNEP'S

NEED FOR RESTRAINT UNTIL DIFFERENCES WITH ACABQ RESOLVED. HE FELT PART OF PROBLEM WAS DEFINITIONAL, WITH ACABQ (AND REST OF UN) VIEWING UNEP AS JUST ANOTHER FUNDING AGENCY. THIS, IN BERTHOUD'S OPINION, IS WHERE MUCH OF PROBLEM LIES, AS UNEP, WITH ITS SMALL FUND, MUST USE INTELLECTUAL RATHER THAN FINANCIAL LEVERAGE TO ACCOMPLISH GOALS. AS RESULT, ITS STAFF TO PROJECT VALUE RATIO DOES NOT CONFORM TO NORM ESTABLISHED FOR STRAIGHT FUNDING AGENCIES SUCH AS UNDP. BUT UNEP HAS YET TO BE ABLE TO CONVINCE ACABQ OF THIS DIFFERENCE.

3. FORAN, IN MAY 28 CONVERSATION REFLECTED SIMILAR

VIEW OF PROBLEM, BUT ADDED THERE ALSO AN HISTORIC ELEMENT. UNEP'S BUDGET AND STAFFING PATTERN ORIGINALLY DRAWN UP WITH GENEVA IN MIND, WHERE UNEP COULD SHARE SERVICES OF EXISTING UN STAFF IN MANY AREAS. BUDGET AND STAFFING NEVER ADEQUATELY REDESIGNED FOR SEPARATE HEADQUARTERS LOCATED IN NAIROBI, WHERE ASPECTS LIKE PROCUREMENT AND TRAVEL MORE DIFFICULT AND/OR EXPENSIVE. FORAN WAS PERSONALLY NOT HAPPY ABOUT UNEP'S APPROACH TO ITS DIFFERENCES WITH ACABQ DURING THE GC. AS HE PUT IT, IT REMARK HE DID NOT WANT QUOTED TO OTHER UNEP OFFICIALS, QTE IN WINNING THE BATTLE WE MAY HAVE RISKED LOSING THE WAR. UNQTE. FORAN ALSO AWARE PROBLEM CONTINUED UNEP/ACABQ DIFFERENCES CREATES FOR U.S.G. ACCORDING TO FORAN, ONE APPROACH TO PROBLEM BEING CONSIDERED BY UNEP IS TO PROPOSE THAT 1976-77 BUDGET BE PRESENTED AS SINGLE ITEM, WITH DIVISION BETWEEN FUND AND REGULAR UN BUDGET TO BE MADE, AND ON BASIS OF RETIONALE AGREED UPON BETWEEN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STRONG AND UN SYG. MARSHALL

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